

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow. After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-4 and 6-18 are now pending in this application.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given to the claims.

The specification has been amended to correct minor grammatical and/or typographical errors as well as to add headings.

Rejection of claims 1-12 based on Komowski

Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,319,112 ("Komowski"). For at least the following reasons, this rejection is traversed.

Claim 1 (as amended) recites, among other things, a drum flap comprising: a part-cylinder surface, which forms a first region; two circle segment surfaces, wherein each circle segment surface forms a second region; an externally surrounding rim, which is arranged substantially in two planes, projects outward and serves to bear against correspondingly designed bearing surfaces; at least a second rim; and at least one opening in at least one segment of the first region, one or both of the second regions, or a combination thereof. The at least one segment is delimited by the externally surrounding rim and the second rim. Claim 11 recites similar and/or analogous features. Komowski does not teach or suggest this combination of features.

For instance, Komowski does not teach that at least one opening in at least one segment of the first region, one or both of the second regions, or a combination thereof in which the at least one segment is delimited by the externally surrounding rim and the second rim. The PTO considers the outer ridge 412 of Komowski to be the second rim of claim 1. (Page 2 of the Office Action.) However, the outer ridge 412 of Komowski does not delimit a segment with an opening along with an externally surrounding rim. Accordingly, Komowski does not teach or suggest all the features of claim 1 or 11.

Claims 2-4, 6-10, and 12 depend from and contain all the features of claim 1 or claim 11, and are allowable for the same reasons as claim 1 or 11 without regard to the further patentable features contained therein.

Claim 5 has been canceled, which renders the rejection of this claim moot.

For at least these reasons, favorable reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Allowability of claims 13-18

Claim 13 recites, among other things, a drum flap comprising: a part-cylinder surface, which forms a first region; two circle segment surfaces, wherein each circle segment surface forms a second region; an externally surrounding rim, which is arranged substantially in two planes, projects outward and serves to bear against correspondingly designed bearing surfaces; at least a second rim, which serves to bear against a corresponding designed bearing surface; a third region, wherein the second rim runs substantially around a third region; and a planar intermediate region arranged at an angle not equal to 180° from the third region. The third region indirectly adjoins a lateral surface in a region of the externally surrounding rim via the intermediate region. Claim 17 recites similar and/or analogous features. Komowski does not teach or suggest this combination of features.

For instance, Komowski does not teach at least a second rim; a third region, wherein the second rim runs substantially around a third region; and a planar intermediate region arranged at an angle from the third region such that the third region indirectly adjoins a lateral surface in a region of the externally surrounding rim via the intermediate region. The PTO considers the linear section 436 of Komowski to be the third region and the rim between the linear section 436 and the cylindrical section 434 to be the intermediate region. (Page 3 of the Office Action.) However, the rim between the linear section 436 and the cylindrical section 434 of Komowski cannot be the intermediate region because the rim is not planar nor at an angle from the third region. Accordingly, Komowski does not teach or suggest all the features of claim 13 or 17.

Claims 14-16 and 18 depend from and contain all the features of claim 13 or claim 17, and are allowable for the same reasons as claim 13 or 17 without regard to the further patentable features contained therein.

For at least these reasons, allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

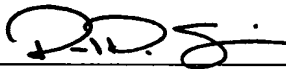
Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing or a credit card payment form being unsigned, providing incorrect information resulting in a rejected credit card transaction, or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 

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